

Serial No. 08/472,876
Docket No. TRD 001 IA

**08/989,373, entitled APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR ENHANCING ELECTRONIC
AUDIO SIGNALS, filed December 12, 1997.**

Applicants also request that all future correspondence be sent to the undersigned at
the address set out below.

In the Office Action dated September 15, 1998, claims 17, 18, 29 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; claims 31, 33, 34, 43 and 40 were rejected under § 112, ¶ 1 as being "single means claims"; claims 2, 5, 9 and 24 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter and being allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 35, 37, 14, 15, 28, 38 and 44 were indicated as being allowable.

A telephonic interview was conducted between Examiner Xu Mei and applicants' representative Robert Showalter on December 7, 1998. Applicants appreciate the courtesy of that interview. During the interview, it was proposed that claims 31 and 40 be amended to recite "a source of an input audio signal." It was also asserted that claims 31 and 40, if amended in this manner, would clearly comply with § 112. The Examiner agreed but cautioned that he would first have to receive authorization from his superior before he could allow these claims.

With this Amendment, applicants have amended claims 31 and 40 in the manner discussed during the interview. Also, claims 17, 18, 29 and 39 have been canceled as applicants intend to pursue those claims in a continuing application.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, applicants submit that claims 2, 5, 9, 14, 15, 24, 28, 31, 33-35, 37, 38, 40, 43 and 44 define patentably over the prior art. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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By


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